

Application N.: 09/590924

Case No.: 55416US002

REMARKS

Claims 14, 15, 17-24 and 41-73 are pending. Claims 1-13, 16 and 25-40 have been canceled. Claims 14, 20, 41, 42, 45-49, 52, 55-57, 59, 61, 62, 64, 66, 67, 69 and 71 are amended.

Specification

In the Office Action, the amendment to the claims filed 10/15/2002 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 as introducing new matter into the disclosure. The Action cited the following new matter:

(1) the newly added claim limitations regarding the size of the film relative to the size of the substrates; (2) the newly added claim limitations regarding shrinkage up to about 4%; and (3) the newly added claim limitations regarding shrinkage between about 0.4% to about 3%.

Applicants were required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Applicants' Response:

Applicants traverse the above objection to the specification. However, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this case, the claims have been amended in order to address these objections.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 14-15, 17-24, 41-48, 55-56, 59-61, 64-66, 69-71, and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. See the reasons for the objection to the amendment filed 10/15/2002 as stated above. Applicant was required to point out with specificity any purported support for the claim language in question.

Claims 14-15, 17-19, 41, 43, 45-48, 57-58, 62-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 57 was found to be vague and indefinite because of a lack of clear antecedent basis for the phrase "the non-planar substrate", and Claim 14 was found to be vague and indefinite because it was unclear what constitutes a film of "comparable" size to the substrates.

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Applicants' Response:

Claims 14, 20, 55-57, 59, 61, 62, 64, 66, 69 and 71 have been amended in response to the above §112 rejections. Support for the amendment to claim 14 can be found, for example, on page 30, lines 16-29 of the present application. Support for the recitation of an in-plane shrinkage of 3.887% in claim 20 can be found on page 31, Table 2, column 4, Sample ID #2-2 of the present application. Support for the amendments to claims 55, 61, 66 and 71 can be found on page 22, lines 10-16. Accordingly, the §112 rejection of claims 14-15, 17-24, 41-48, 55-66, 69-71, and 73 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 49-54, 67, 68 and 72 were found allowable over the prior art of record. In addition, claims 57, 58, 62 and 63 were found allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the instant Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response:

Applicants appreciate the finding of allowable subject matter.

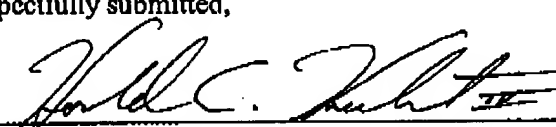
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice of additional allowable subject matter is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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